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Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 DOE-15
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ICA-11 EB-08 AID-05 ACDA-12 OES-09 HA-05 AF-10
EUR-12 /142 W
----------071650 101140Z /12
R 081521Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8190
INFO AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO
AMCONSUL SAO PAULO
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

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EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY), BR
SUBJ: HENRY KISSINGER'S VISIT TO BRAZIL

1. SUMMARY: HENRY KISSINGER SPENT A HIGHLY-PUBLICIZED AND BUSY FEW DAYS IN BRAZIL IN LATE JUNE DURING WHICH HE MET WITH PRESIDENT GEISEL, GENERAL FIGUEIREDO, SEVERAL CABINET MINISTERS AND OTHER OFFICIALS. HE GAVE FREQUENT INTERVIEWS IN WHICH HIS STATEMENTS ON NUCLEAR ENERGY AND HUMAN RIGHTS WERE WIDELY INTERPRETED BY THE LOCAL PRESS AS SUPPORTIVE OF BRAZILIAN VIEWS IN THESE AREAS, AND RECEIVED AN HONORARY DEGREE FROM THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF RIO DE JANEIRO ON JUNE 27 SHORTLY AFTER HIS ARRIVAL. POINTING OUT THAT THE NATURE OF HIS VISIT WAS PERSONAL AND UNOFFICIAL AND AT THE INVITATION OF HIS GOOD FRIEND, FOREIGN MINISTER SILVEIRA, HE ANSWERED A HOST OF PRESS QUESTIONS ON A VIARIETY OF SUBJECTS AND LIBERALLY PRAISED BRAZIL. END SUMMARY.

2. DR AND MRS HENRY KISSINGER VISITED RIO DE JANEIRO BRASILIA AND SALVADOR DURING JUNE 27-30 AS THE PERSONAL GUEST OF
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FOREIGN MINISTER SILVEIRA. HIS VIEWS AND HIS MOVEMENTS, INCLUDING VISITS WITH PRESIDENT GEISEL, GENERAL FIGUEREDO AND NUMERIOUS OTHER PROMINENT BRAZILIANS WERE FOLLOWED AND REPORTED IN DETAILS BY AN AVID PRESS CORPS, TO WHICH KISSINGER PLAYED WITH EQUAL ETHUSIASM. HE ALSO MET WITH FINANCE MINISTER SIMONSEN AND INFORMALLY WITH THE MINISTERS OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE, MINES AND INDUSTRY AND LABOR, AS WELL AS WITH CONGRESSIONAL

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LEADERS AND FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS AT LUNCHEONS AND
RECEPTIONS. AMBASSADOR SAYRE ATTENDED SILVEIRA'S LUNCHEON
FOR DR. KISSINGER ON JUNE 28.

3. FOLLOWING IS A DISTILLATION OF LOCAL MEDIA COVERAGE OF
POINTS MADE BY DR KISSINGER IN A SERIES OF INTERVIEWS.
(A) HUMAN RIGHTS: HE ENERGETICALLY DENIED THAT QUESTIONS OF
HUMAN RIGHTS WAS FORGOTTEN WHILE HE WAS SECRETARY OF STATE,
SAYING THAT IT WAS DIRING THAT TIME THAT THE US HUMAN RIGHTS
POLICY WAS "INVENTED". HE QUOTED FIGURES OF GAINS IN NUMBERS OF JEWS
ALLOWED TO EMIGRATE FROM THE SOVIET UNION DURING AND SINCE HIS
TERM OF OFFICE. HE SAID HE BELIEVED QUESTIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS WAS A
DELICATE ONE WHICH SHOULD BE TREATED DIPLOMATICALLY AND QUIETLY,
ADDING
THAT HIS DIFFERENCES WITH CURRENT POLICY WERE OF METHOD, NOT OF
SUBSTANCE.
HE ALSO SAID THAT HUMAN RIGHTS SHOULD BE APPLIED UNIFORMLY TO ALL
COUNTRIES, WHETHER THEY BE FRIENDS OR ENEMIES, AND THAT IT WAS EASEIR
TO THREATEN ONE'S FRIENDS ON SUCH AN ISSUE.
(B) NUCLEAR ENERGY: HE CITED THE GREAT CONCERN IN THE
US OVER NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION AND THE TECHNOLOGY OF
REPROCESSING. WITH REGARD TO BRAZIL, HE SAID THAT HE
WAS CERTAIN THAT A TECHNICAL SOLUTION COULD BE FOUND
IF WORK WAS DONE ON SAFEGUARDS TO PREVENT THE
REPROCESSING PRODUCT FROM BEING USED FOR MILITRARY
PURPOSES. HE SAID HE DID NOT BELIEVE THAT BRAZIL
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WANTED TO SEE ATOMIC BOMBS SCATTERED AROUND THE
HEMISPHERE AND CONTRASTED BRAZIL, WHOSE INDUSTRIAL
POSITION COULD PROFIT FROM NUCLEAR ENERGY, WITH POOR
UNDERDEVELOPED COUNTRIES WHICH HAD NO LEGITIMATE NEED FOR
REPROCESSING TECHNOLOGY AND WHOSE OBJECTIVE IN SEEKING SUCH
A CAPABILITY WAS LIKELY TO BE FOR WEAPONS PURPOSES.
HE SAID THAT IF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WERE USED
AS A MODEL OF COOPERATION BETWEEN US AND BRAZIL, HE
WAS SURE BRAZIL WOULD DEVELOP ITS NUCLEAR PROGRAM WITHOUT DANGER
OF PROLIFERATION. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION ON
US PRESSURES CONCERNING THE BRAZILIAN-FRG NUCLEAR ACCORD,
DR KISSINGER REPLIED THAT WHEN HE WAS SECRETARY OF STATE
HE DISCUSSED THE MATTER WITH FOREIGN MINISTER SILVEIRA
"IN A DISCREET MANNER AND WITHOUT EXERTING PRESSURE".
(C) BRAZIL-US RELATIONS: HE STATED THAT ALTHOUGH THERE
HAD BEEN IMPORTANT DIFFERENCES DURING THE PAST YEAR, HE BELIEVED
THAT RELATIONS HAD IMPROVED AND WOULD CONTINUE
TO IMPROVE. HE ALSO REFERRED TO THE FACT IN A

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BOOK WRITTEN IN 1960, HE HAD MAINTAINED THAT BRAZIL
SHOULD RECEIVE SPECIAL EMPHASIS. HE COMMENTED THAT
OTHER PRIORITIES SUCH AS THE SOVIET UNION, CHINA AND VIETNAM
PREVENTED HIM FROM GIVING LATIN AMERICA THE
ATTENTION IT DESERVED. HE ADDED THAT HE HAD LATER SELECTED BRAZIL
AS THE KEY COUNTRY IN THE REGION
AND HAD NEVER CHANGED HIS MIND ABOUT IT. WHEN ASKED
WHETHER THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION WAS NOT FAVORING
VENEZUELA TO THE DETRIMENT OF BRAZIL, HE REPLIED THAT
VENEZUELA IS A VERY IMPORTANT COUNTRY AND ITS PRESIDENT
A GREAT LEADER, BUT THAT BRAZIL IS A CONTINENTAL NATION.
"THERE ARE REALITIES IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND IT
IS THE IMPORTANCE ITSELF OF BRAZIL THAT WILL DETERMINE ITS
INFLUENCE IN THE WORLD. IT IS NOT A QUESTION OF
CHOOSING ONE COUNTRY OR THE OTHER: EACH WILL HAVE ITS
OWN SPECIFIC INFLUENCE."
(D) MEETING WITH FIGUEIREDO: FOLLOWING A DINNER HOSTED BY
FIGUEIREDO AND ATTEND BY MRS KISSINGER, SON DAVID
AND FONMIN SILVEIRA, HE DESCRIBED THE ARENA CANDIDATE AS
"VERY BRAZILIAN, A VERY HUMAN AND OBJECTIVE AND WITH VERY
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IMAGINATIVE IDEAS ABOUT BRAZIL'S FUTURE." HE AND
FIGUEIREDO EXCHANGED IDEAS ON A NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL
ISSUES. AFTER THE DINNER, FIGUEIREDO WAS QUOTED AS SAYING

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THAT INITIAL STEPS TAKEN BY THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION HAD
"CREATED A TRAUMATISM" IN RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO
COUNTRIES, BUT THAT "HAPPILY, LITTLE BY LITTLE,
THE US ADMINISTRATION BEGAIN TO REALIZE ITS ERRORS AND
TO CREATE THE CONDITIONS FOR A MORE RESPECTFUL
AND CORDIAL DIALOGUE." DR KISSINGER COMMENTED THAT
THE TALK WITH FIGUEIREDO WAS "VERY INSTRUCVTIVE" AND
THAT EACH HAD GIVEN THE OTHER HIS IDEAS ON INTEJ-
NATIONAL ISSUES.
(E) USSR AND CUBA: HE CONDEMNED CUBAN INTERVENTION IN
AFRICA AND WARNED THAT THE SOVIET UNION COULD NOT
CONDUCT A POLICY OF AGRESSION IN THAT CONTINENT AND
AT THE SAME TIME CARRY OUT FRUITFUL NEGOTIATIONS WITH
THE US. "WHEN THE SOVIET UNION UNDERSTANDS THAT, THEN
WE WILL KNOW THAT IT HAS MADE A CHOICE BECAUSE WE CANNOT
LET THEM BELIEVE THERE IS NO PRICE TO BE PAID FOR SUCH
ADVENTURES." CUBA HAS NO JUSTIFICATION FOR SENDING
FORCES TO AFRICA AND SOUTH YEMEN TO ENGAGE IN A MILITARY
ACTION THOUSANDS OF MILES FROM ITS TERRITORY. THE
PROBLEMS OF AFRICA SHOULD BE SOLVED BY THE AFRICAN
PEOPLE, WITHOUT THE INTERVENTION OF THE US, THE SOVIET UNION
OR CUBA.
(F) BRAZILIAN ELECTIONS: HE STATED BRAZIL WAS MOVING TOWARD
DEMOCRACY AND WAS IN THE PROCESS OF ESTABLISHING
ELECTIONS AT ALL LEVELS. HE POINTED OUT IT WAS NECESSARY
TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN COUNTRIES WITH AUTHORITARIAN REGIMES
WHO DENY ALL DEOMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES, AND AUTHORITARIAN
REGIMES WHICH AVOW THEY WANT TO RETURN TO DEOMOCRACY.

3. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THE TRIP WAS "UNOFFICIAL AND
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PERSONAL", DR KISSINGER WAS WELL RECEIVED BY A
NUMBER OF BRAZIL'S HIGHEST-RANKING OFFICIALS. MEDIA
COVERAGE WAS EXTENSIVE AND MOST COMMENTARY WAS
FAVORABLE. IT WAS CLEAR THAT THE GOB CONSIDERED IT
DERIVED SOME BENEFIT FROM HIS STATEMENTS ON HUMAN
RIGHTS, NUCLEAR ENERGY AND BRAZIL'S RTURN TO ELECTIONS.
HE STATEMENTS ON THE FIRRST TWO SUBJECTS, PARTICULARLY
THOSE WHICH WERE INTERPRETED AS CRITICAL OF CURRENT US POLICIES, WERE
GIVEN
WIDE PRESS PLAY, AND WRITTEN SO AS TO REFLECT MOST FAVORABLY ON BRAZI
L'S IMAGE. HIS STATEMENT THAT BRAZIL
WAS BECOMING A GREAT POWER AND HIS CHARACTERIZATION OF
BRAZIL AS A NATION SUFFICIENTLY MATURE TO DEAL WITH
NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY HAD GREAT APPEAL. IN SUM, HE APPEARED
TO TELL BRAZILIANS WHAT THEY WANTED TO HEAR AND THEY MADE
THE MOST OF IT.
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